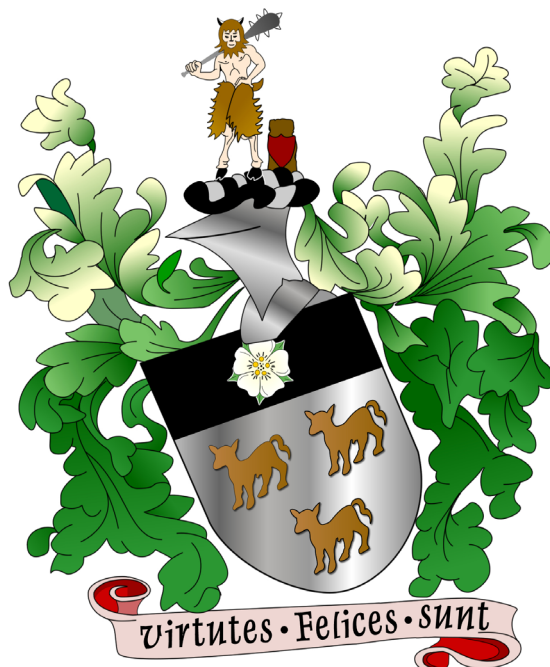


MECCA NEWS

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THE MECCA NEWS

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Editorial Musings by Michael Pope M1919

I offer all Metcalfe Society members my warmest greetings and a hope for a modicum of quietness and tranquillity, as we seem to be in turmoil wherever we look. Very serious drought and terrible fires in Australia, major fires in California and talk of presidential impeachment in the USA, and a recent general election not without controversy in Canada.

In the UK, a Brexit which seems never ending and a general election to boot, which is already causing confusion as to what the parties are actually representing and a difficult decision-making process as to who to vote for. To make matters worse, we now have some pre-Christmas flooding, which is dreadful for those with inundated homes at any time of the year, but particularly awful as we approach the festive season.

My own village Scotter in Northern Lincolnshire has a small river which usually runs no more than 450mm deep under two bridges which are about a hundred metres apart. On Friday 8 November it was over 3.5 metres deep and some 11 houses have been seriously flooded. The river receded over the last week, but as I finish this editorial, we have had another day of very heavy rain and it is feared that the river will overtop again. Lincolnshire has been badly hit generally with flood banks breached and several farms completely isolated. Just as awful have been the inundations in South Yorkshire with Sheffield, Rotherham, and Doncaster suffering from the torrent of water flowing out of the River Don.

The heartlands of the Metcalfes in Swaledale, Wensleydale and Nidderdale have miraculously escaped the worst, but the land is now absolutely saturated and a wet winter will undoubtedly see more flooding in the Dales. I sincerely hope that all our members everywhere are safe, well, dry, fire-free and have not suffered dreadful financial loss in the troubles.

Talking of Brexit, I was minded to look back at my editorial of December 2018 and had to laugh at my question "... who knows where we will be by the end of 2019...? We still have no idea and, although the general election will change the parliamentary picture, we may be just as uncertain afterwards.

I must say that I find genealogy an excellent antidote to Brexititis which surely by now must be an identified medical condition, although apparently without a curative treatment.

On the other hand, my wife has regularly accused me of suffering from Metcalfeitis and I must admit to a further range of family name complaints including Popeitis, Pelmearitis, Flounderitis and Littlefairitis amongst others too numerous to mention.

Excessive time spent on family history research can be very frustrating for family members who have not the slightest interest in their origins or roots, prompting them to ask with monotonous regularity "Haven't you finished that yet. I thought you would have done it all by now?"

Au contraire! One of our genealogical mantras is surely "Never Give Up" and I have only in the last month established the military identity and correct WWI record card of one my great uncles by finding a pension record using Fold 3 Military data, which gave me his service number, after 4 years of searching. This clarified that he did actually serve in France, having been in the militia at the turn of the century, but this was tempered by the news that his pensioning off was the result of the contraction of syphilis!

The muster was, as always, a most enjoyable and informative event although, as Chairman David Lambert says in his Jottings, disappointing in respect of the low attendance. The visit of our three US Metcalf cousins was most notable also and I hope that they enjoyed the day. Carol Taylor gave me some photographs of her forebears from Maine and I hope to incorporate them into an article if I can inveigle her into writing me some copy with details of her family.

We have excellent articles in this edition from Andrew Metcalfe on one of the Oxfordshire Metcalfe families and a bread charity which ran nearly 200 years. Carol Wetton is featured with a piece on James Metcalf the runner and there is one from our Website Administrator Dave C. Metcalfe on a particularly precious family photograph which has lots of memories and family history behind it.

My very best wishes for the festive season and beyond.

	£	Euros	\$US	\$Can	\$Aus	\$NZ
UK & Europe	15					
Overseas via Air Mail	21	25	27	36	36	38
+ One Time Registration Fee	15	19	21	26	26	28

If you are a UK member and wish to pay by a standing order, please contact the Treasurer for a Standing Order form to send to your bank, not the society.

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The Metcalfe Mecca Muster 5 October 2019

The gathering of the Metcalfe Clan in 2019 was held in Leyburn, North Yorkshire in mid Wensleydale, as it has been for the past four years, at Tennant's Auction House on the 5th of October.

The attendance was somewhat disappointing with only 38 present for the Muster and the Annual General Meeting, but the members who did attend, pictured below on the fine Tennant's staircase, thoroughly enjoyed the event.



Jo Heron manned the reception desk, greeted and registered the members and is seen here with President Nina Benson and her grandson Sam Benson along with Margaret Hodgson and Treasurer Peter Dobson. Jo, in her capacity as Conference Secretary, organised the Muster and we congratulate her for arranging another highly successful Metcalfe day.



The Chairman David Lambert welcomed the members to the 2019 Muster and Annual General Meeting and explained the programme and the logistics for the day, particularly with reference to the speaker Jackie Delpelle and the time allocated during the proceedings to facilitate open debate on the future of the Society.

The AGM went smoothly and the re-election of the officers confirmed David Lambert as Chairman and Peter Dobson as Treasurer; in both cases, only up to the 2020 Muster when both will be stepping down.



The remaining positions were also confirmed: Jo Heron as Sales, Membership and Conference Secretary, David Metcalfe as Database controller, Dave C. Metcalfe as Website Administrator and Mike Pope as Editor. In addition on the extended team, Martin Metcalfe continues as DNA leader, Margaret Hodgson as Archivist and Wills Project Leader, Lesley Longworth looking after social media, and Liz Waller helping on administration.

Treasurer Peter Dobson presented the annual accounts and concluded that although the current position was very satisfactory, the continuing fall in membership and rising costs would compromise the financial situation at some point in the future. It was proposed by the Chairman and agreed by the membership that the subscription would remain at the present level for another year.

There followed some discussion on the future of the Society before the Chairman brought the AGM to a close and indicated that debate would continue after lunch.



Jackie Depelle of the Upper Dales Family History Group then gave an excellent presentation on Researching Non-Conformist Ancestors which was very well received by the membership and prompted some interesting questions. Jackie has a very comprehensive repertoire of talks and her appearance this year made it two Musters in a row.



We were delighted to see three cousins from Maine USA this year. Laurie Forbes M2110 from Raymond, Debra Goss M1366 from Westbrook and Carol Taylor M1104 from Windham attended the muster whilst on a visit to the UK, Cambridge and London, and are seen here left speaking with Nina and Sam Benson and Chairman David Lambert.



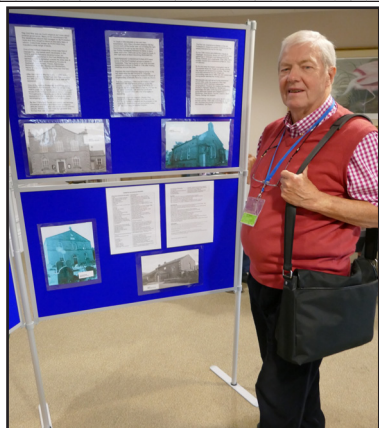
Our USA cousins were very keen to help the Society in any way they could and suggested that using the appropriate social media might be a practicable means of achieving that objective. They are shown left in discussion with the Chairman.

As usual there was a sales table which was most successfully run by Dave C. Metcalfe and wife Ros, who together managed to persuade members to part with over £210 during the day. They are shown right with Margaret Metcalfe who has just uttered those two words Yorkshire folk find essential when purchasing anything from a flock of Swaledale ewes to a winter coat ... "HOW MUCH?" Not satisfied with extracting money on sales, the pair also ran a protection racket on the raffle and with a very willing audience raised another £150.



David Metcalfe our database wizard with Edwin Metcalfe, taking a well earned rest from serious research looking for Metcalfes, with Chairman David Lambert shown right, who has just asked them if they could locate his wallet!





Treasurer Peter Dobson above left was responsible for putting together the display boards on Non-Conformism to complement Jackie Depelle's talk, and above right Martin Metcalfe is shown demonstrating the science of DNA testing to Robert Metcalfe M831.

After the lunch break there was a further discussion on the problems facing the Society in securing volunteers to fill the Chairman, Treasurer and Editor roles which will all become vacant by the end of next year. It was agreed that the committee would consider the best way forward and make proposals to the membership by the Spring of 2020.

The final presentation was another excellent piece from Jackie Depelle who provided a detailed run down of the 1939 Register and how best to extract the most information from the record, and followed it up with a mini master class on how to break down brick walls. This proved to be a most effective session and many members found it helpful.



The rather less frenetic programme this year afforded the members more time to mingle, meet, discuss family history problems and successes, and to reminisce about Mecca Masters of long ago.



As usual, the Muster ended with the raffle, drawn by David Lambert the Chairman and administered by Jo Heron the Conference Secretary.

The event was drawn to a close by the Chairman at 1600hrs and he wished all a safe journey home and a hope to see everybody again next year in 2020 for our 40th anniversary.

Chairman's Jottings

When you read this another year will soon be over.

We held our Muster in October at Tennants' Garden Rooms in Leyburn. I was disappointed by the low number of attendees (38), compared with previous years (on average 80+) but those who attended thoroughly enjoyed a busy day (as usual) and were enlightened by Jackie Depelle's presentation on Non-Conformity.

How many of you who have a missing ancestor discover they were not attending the Church of England parish church but rather a non-conformist chapel? Probably quite a large number in the latter part of the 18th and during the 19th centuries, especially when Methodist chapels abounded in the Dales. Jackie as ever gave a most informative lecture, which set a few heads thinking!

The AGM approved the re-election of the committee for which I thank you. A discussion on the future running of the society allowed members to air their views on some of the options suggested previously by the committee. The members supported the proposition that the committee be tasked to consider how the society can continue, given the lack of new committee members to take on key tasks on the committee which will fall vacant next year. The committee will make proposals next spring with a view to necessary resolutions being put to the 2020 AGM. I can confirm that we intend to hold our 40th Muster next year and have made a tentative booking at Tennants again.

It was good to meet our American visitors Laurie Forbes, Debra Goss and Carol Taylor from Maine, whose offers to assist us on the committee, possibly via Skype, were most welcome. We will investigate the viability of overseas members becoming trustees. We had 2 other offers to join the committee and agreed to review the position later in 2020 when we know if there are any candidates for the three main roles of chairman, treasurer and editor. The committee is arranging, as this is written in October, an extra meeting to consider the options available to us, including an exploration of holding committee meetings online via Skype or Webex.

Turning to other things, it seems to me that we have not during our society's existence researched overseas members of the clan as much as perhaps we should, with the exception of those in British India, thanks to the dedicated research into East India Company records at the British Library by the late George Buxton.

This was followed up by Peter Dobson's 'Metcalfes in India' book. Reading an article in the December edition of Family Tree Magazine brought home to me how many web sites now exist to help identify and locate family members who emigrated across the world whilst the British Empire was at its zenith. We were told when I was at school that one quarter of the globe was part of the British Empire, coloured pink on the world map if memory serves me well. The likelihood is that many of our forebears did go to parts of that Empire. There would be a variety of reasons for them doing so. Military service would account for many but others left for economic reasons, to make what they hoped would be a better life for themselves and their families.

The article by Emma Jolly, lists and gives details of Web sites, which help one to trace British ancestors in the former British Empire, as well as ancestors from all around the world. Your brick wall might well be due to the fact that the ancestors are overseas and not therefore present in UK records.

Many of the 'commercial' sites including Ancestry and Find My Past (FMP) include, as she points out, a large number of immigration and travel record collections together with naturalisation papers.

The General Register Office (GRO) births marriages and deaths overseas British India office collection 1600s -1900s, including ecclesiastical records are on FMP, as are British Royal African Company records for the mercantile Company of that name, covering the period 1694-1743.

FMP in addition has ship's passenger lists 1890-1960 and transatlantic immigration records from USA to Britain and Ireland 1858-1870 and much more besides.

The article points out that a search at The National Archives Discovery portal (<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk>) can reveal the largest collection of records relating to the British Empire (now Commonwealth). Insert a keyword such as Metcalf(e) or one of the variants and add a reference to colonial or dominion office. This will reveal several records held there.

www.cyndislist.com includes weblinks for researching family history worldwide. Under the page for UK try 'Related Categories' for Australia, Canada, the Caribbean, New Zealand, Scandinavia, China as well as Eastern Europe. Should you find records relevant to the society please tell us so we can add them to our database.

On 16 September 1620 The Mayflower set sail with the Pilgrim Fathers and their families to the USA. Next year marks the 400th anniversary.

Celebrations are taking place in Plymouth from November this year and details can be found on their website together with a history of the voyage. The site has a search facility and the history lists the voyagers. As far as I know there were no Metcalf(e)s (or members of the clan using a variant name) but I am happy to be proved wrong!

There were 102 Pilgrims and fare paying passengers and their servants accompanied by 30 crew members when it landed in Plymouth Bay, Massachusetts. Over 30 million people claim to be able to trace their ancestry from these 132 persons. For details see the website

<https://www.mayflower400uk.org/education/the-mayflower-story/>

The history explains how many of the families left England before the voyage to live in Leiden in Holland, staying there for 12 years to live their lives according to their religious convictions. They were Non-Conformists.

As I write this it seems we will have a general election in December, the first in that month for nigh on a century. The 1923 general election took place on 6 December 1923. The Conservatives, won the most seats, but Labour, led by Ramsay MacDonald, and the Liberal Party secured enough seats to produce a hung parliament. It was the last UK general election (so far!) in which a third party (on this occasion the Liberals) won more than 100 seats, receiving more than 26% of the vote.

Ramsay MacDonald formed the first ever Labour government with tacit support from the Liberals. The Labour government only lasted ten months and another general election was held in October 1924. There were no MPs from the Metcalf(e) family elected that year. Will there be this?

In 2015 I searched through the lists of MPs to see how many were from our family. The History of Parliament, a charity, is researching the biographies of all MPs from the start of the House of Commons until (eventually but not yet) the 20th century. There are 6 recorded Metcalfe MPs in the 17th and 18th centuries: Robinson Metcalfe (1629-1689); James Metcalfe (died 1730); Lascelles Metcalfe (died 1781); Philip Metcalfe (1733-1818); Henry Metcalfe (1780-1822); and Thomas Theophilus Metcalfe (1745-1813). Website details of MPs can be seen on the charity's website from where the brief details above can be seen and biographic details of the MPs read. (I acknowledge their copyright.) <http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/search/site/METCALFE?page=1>

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and what will I trust be a successful 2020!

David Lambert

The Metcalfe Bread Charity Of Banbury Oxfordshire

By Andrew Metcalfe M1915

In 1826 there was a publication entitled "Reports of the Commissioners for inquiring concerning Charities". In the Oxfordshire section we read: "Mary Abraham alias Metcalfe, widow, by will dated 11th May 1728, devised to her nephew, Henry Abraham alias Metcalfe, and his heirs, all her estates in the parishes of Culworth and Eydon, in the county of Northampton, in trust for the payment of the following legacies, viz.:- To the schoolmaster of the church school... an annuity of £5. To the vicar of Banbury ... an annuity of £5. To six poor families of the town of Banbury, an annuity of £5 out of the same estates, to be given in twelvepenny loaves weekly [sic. although for £5 to cover the cost of six loaves a week for a year they would have had to have been fourpenny loaves as correctly mentioned in the next paragraph], at the discretion of her said executor and his heirs, provided that such six poor families should be such as should be past work, by age or accident, of large families, and should live orderly and frequent the church."

By 1826 the responsibility for paying the baker had fallen on the shoulders of Mary's nephew's grandson John Metcalfe Wardle and he had firstly mortgaged the estates and then surrendered the mortgage [1795] on the estates which were supposed to provide the income to buy the bread.

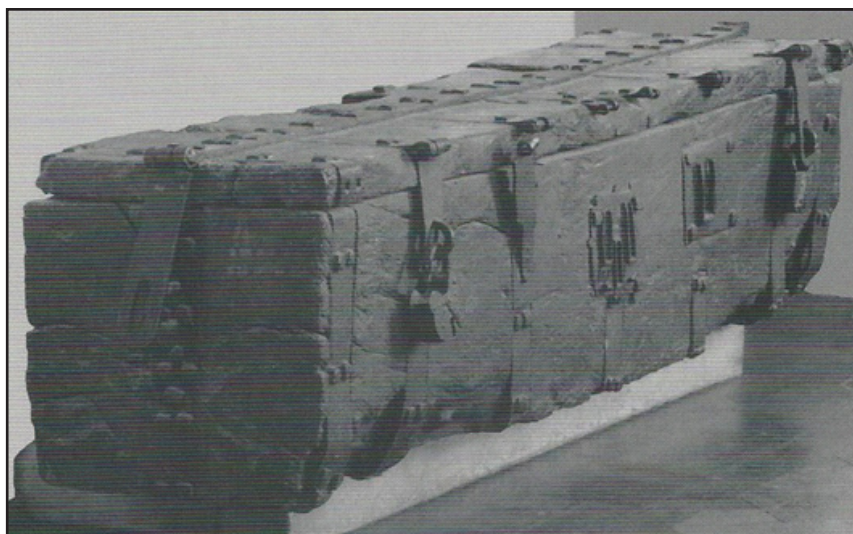
One of the farms that had been sold was called Black Pool Hill Farm and this had been bought by Richard Faulkner. Faulkner was under an obligation to pay £17 a year to cover Mary Abraham alias Metcalfe's charitable legacies. So the report continues: "The annuity of £5 for bread, was paid by Mr Wardle, through inadvertence, for some time after he had sold the Eydon and Culworth estates; it was regularly transmitted to Richard Haddon, a baker, who supplied six fourpenny loaves weekly, and these he gave to six poor women, who were recommended to him by different persons in the town. He supplied the bread till April 1820, since which time nothing has been given away, and there is due to him £2 12s for the last half-year's bread, no payment having been made to him since October 1819. There was therefore due from Richard Faulkner, at Lady-day [25th March] 1824, £22 10s as the arrears of this payment for 4-1/2 years. When this is received £2 12s will be payable to the baker; and we have recommended the vicar distribute the residue in bread weekly, until the whole shall be exhausted."

During her lifetime Mary Abraham alias Metcalfe had been a very wealthy woman and her husband Thomas had been able to buy a substantial acreage of land around their home town of Banbury.

Thomas's father and grandfather were also called Thomas. Let us call them Thomas I Thomas II and Thomas III and study each in turn.

Thomas I was woollen draper living in New Woodstock Oxfordshire where his father had been Mayor in 1608. The Metcalfes had moved into New Woodstock in 1528 and Thomas had an ancestor (possibly his grandfather or great-grandfather) Abraham who was mayor in 1563. This Abraham may be a clue as to why this branch of the clan was known as Abraham alias Metcalfe.

With his impeccable pedigree Thomas I rose through the civic ranks at New Woodstock, becoming a Constable (1609), Chamberlain (1610-1612), Alderman (1621 until his death in 1629) and Mayor of New Woodstock in 1628. In 1621 it was minuted in the account books of the Woodstock Chamberlains that the town chest was in the care of Alderman 'Thomas Meatcalfe' who was overseeing the fitting of a new lock and key.



This chest in Woodstock Town Hall is believed to be the chest that was in the possession of Alderman Thomas Meatcalfe in 1621.

He died leaving a detailed will in 1629. The inventory attached to the will itemised assets with a value of £165 16s 8d.

Thomas I had one son Thomas and 4 daughters. The marriage of Thomas II to Elizabeth Martin is recorded in the parish registers of St Giles' church in Oxford on 30 December 1637. Beside the entry it says "of Long Combe". Elizabeth was certainly 'of Long Combe' where her father was a yeoman, but was Thomas II?

Long Combe is about 2 miles from New Woodstock and perhaps they spent the early days of their marriage there, but it is clear from the will of Elizabeth's father William, that by 1642 they were living in Banbury. The Civil War broke out in September 1642 and Banbury being a relatively short distance from the Royalist Capital at Oxford was also occupied by the Royalists.

Judging by the number of burials of soldiers in the Parish Registers there, it was evidently a dangerous place to be, but here it was that Thomas II set himself up in business as an apothecary. From the registers of St Mary's Banbury we read that Thomas II and Elizabeth buried daughter Elizabeth [presumably an infant] in 1643, they baptised William (1644), Elizabeth (1646), Benona (1648, she died in 1650 but the register has mistranscribed her name at the time of her burial as 'Beata') and Charles (1650).

Thomas II still owned at least one house in New Woodstock and was under an obligation to pay the Chamberlains there a rent (the modern equivalent would be Council Tax).

The Chamberlains' account books reveal that his payment was outstanding at the end of every year from 1646 until 1650, the last year for which the records have been printed. It would seem that he was now fully focussed on his business and interests in Banbury and the property at New Woodstock was 'out of sight and out of mind'.

Thomas II passed away in 1677 and was buried in the September. A monumental inscription was erected to him in St Mary's Banbury. "Thomas Metcalf pharmacopocious died 6 Sep.1677". Elizabeth followed in August 1695.

In his will Thomas II left his shop to his son Henry. However Henry was buried 1682, one year after completing his apprenticeship. Again the family paid for a monumental inscription "Henry Metcalf, died 25 July 1682 aged 26 years". As a consequence of Henry's untimely death the shop then passed down to Thomas III [who I assume, without evidence to the contrary, was now the eldest surviving son].

There is, however, no record in the Banbury registers of the baptism of Thomas III. Maybe he was baptised at Long Combe where there are no extant registers prior to 1646. Likewise we have no details of his wedding day. We know that he married a Mary but I can find no record of her maiden name. My guess is that she was a London girl and the marriage may have taken place there.

Thomas III and Mary baptised a son William in June 1663, only to bury him six days later. A monumental inscription to the infant William ("only son of Thos. Abraham alias Metcalfe") was installed in St Mary's Church Banbury. I feel the word 'only' is prescient as it indicates that Thomas and Mary realised that they could have no more sons.

By the time of his death in 1712 Thomas III's family was as follows: his widow Mary was childless. He had two surviving brothers; James a goldsmith living in London and Charles who was living in Fort St George Madras. His two surviving sisters were both married: Christian to Richard Wheatley, ironmonger, they had five children, and Elizabeth to Thomas Fletcher the vicar of Bloxham.

In order to ameliorate the looming crisis of Thomas's death it would seem that the decision to pass the shop on to brother James's son Henry had been taken sometime previously. Of course Henry would need to do an apprenticeship before he could start dispensing drugs and this had been commenced but not completed when Thomas died. Under the terms of Thomas's will Henry was to receive £500 upon completion of his apprenticeship and a further £500 when the widow Mary died. In addition Henry received various properties in Banbury; he was a very lucky young man.

Quite how the apothecary shop survived while Henry completed his apprenticeship I do not know, but survive it did. By 1726 when Mary (she of the Bread Charity) died Henry had a wife Elizabeth with whom he had two daughters. The baptism of three sons to Henry the apothecary are recorded in the Banbury registers but the longest surviving of these failed to reach his fourth birthday.

We do not know much about Elizabeth. I can find no record of the marriage, and perhaps more strangely, I cannot find a record of her burial which must have happened before 1742 because that is when Henry married his second wife Thomasin Dawes. That marriage took place at Shutford Oxfordshire on 22 June. It was a childless marriage, I imagine they were both mature people by then, but Henry's will which was written four years later, touchingly describes Thomasin as "my dear wife".

While the Banbury registers record Henry's burial on 26 December 1750 and give his profession as 'apothecary' the business is not mentioned in the will at all.

Perhaps Henry sold the business in his latter years. After all, to whom could he pass it on? By 1750 the Abraham alias Metcalfe family had been operating an apothecary shop in Banbury for over 100 years. In that time they had built up a large holding of land and property. Perhaps the family had now outgrown the apothecary business. Or perhaps being an apothecary in Banbury had become too competitive, the burial registers record 'apothecary' as the profession of 10 deceased men between 1723 and 1812, quite a lot for a small town like Banbury.

The family still had links with the trade. Thomas Tribe, apothecary of St Martin-in-the-Fields (who is described in Mary's will of 1726 as her niece's son) testified to the lawyers dealing with Henry's will that he: "is well acquainted with his manner and character of [Henry's] handwriting having several times seen him write and received many letters from him".

Tribe appears to have had the honour of including Catherine Lady Egmont among his customers [a letter from Tribe to Lady Egmont dated 1742 is preserved in the British Library], but it would seem that Henry Abraham alias Metcalfe was the last of this name to ply his trade as an apothecary in the town of Banbury.

Henry had two daughters with his first wife Elizabeth. Mary baptised in 1716 and Elizabeth baptised in 1724, and as I have already mentioned none of their sons survived. Elizabeth was destined not to marry, but Mary married John Wardle the vicar of Bloxham on 22 June 1742. The exact same day that Henry married his second wife Thomasin in Shutford.

Does this clash of dates reflect a family falling out? If it did then it would seem that the rift did not last too long. Henry gave Mary's daughters a generous legacy in his will of 1746 and after his death Mary and John baptised their eldest surviving son as John Metcalfe Wardle [1751]. It was this John Metcalfe Wardle who paid Richard Haddon the Banbury baker for providing the charity bread up until October 1819.

Despite wild fluctuations in the price of bread over a one hundred and eighty year period, the Metcalfe Bread Charity was still going in 1906 when baker J.Rattley of 28 South Bar, Banbury wrote this note to Church Warden Charles Fortescue. [Oxford History Centre PAR21/13/5C/1]

Dear Sir,

For several years past it has been left in my hands by Rev. Canon Porter to serve to six recipients the bread known as the "Metcalfes Charity Bread" which accounts to £5 per year commencing the first week and running till by the price of bread it amounts to £5, at the end of which period I have received payment. Not having been able to see Canon Porter before he left I thought it best to seek your instruction as Vicar's Church Warden. The six recipients were as under:

Mrs Smith Calthorp Street
Mrs Eaves Oxford Street
Miss Stanley Monument Road
Miss Hirons West Street
Mrs Cherry Monument Road
Mrs Weaver Paradise Square who has since left town.

It appears that by 1906 the £5 legacy no longer guaranteed a weekly loaf, instead the baker was under instructions to distribute bread until the money ran out.

The charity is not however mentioned in a list of Banbury Charities dated 1916. It must have been another casualty of the Great War.

How many Banbury families have Mary Abraham alias Metcalfe to thank for providing, if not their daily bread, then at least their weekly bread? It was a fine legacy that must surely, as Mary would have hoped, have got her one step nearer to a place in heaven.

Andrew Metcalfe M1915

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Sources:

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Oxfordshire Record Society Volumes 58,63 and 65
Banbury Parish Registers and Monumental Inscriptions
Will of Thomas Metcalfe of New Woodstock 1629
Will of William Martin of Long Combe 1642
Will of Thomas Abraham alias Metcalfe 1677
Will of Elizabeth Abraham alias Metcalfe 1695
Will of Thomas Abraham alias Metcalfe 1713
Will of Mary Abraham alias Metcalfe 1726
Will of Henry Abraham alias Metcalfe 1750
Oxford History Centre PAR21/13/5C/1

Pedestrianism by Carol Wetton M0615

References have been made in earlier Mecca News to James Metcalf the runner, but this article by Carol deals with his exploits in more detail: Editor.

Competitive running goes back at least as far as Ancient Greece. In England it may have started with servants, who ran alongside their masters' carriages and 'footmen' was the term used for runners and walkers before the word 'pedestrian' became commonplace.

'Pedestrianism' referred to a contest between two or more men engaging in walking, running or jumping. These contests usually included betting and were very popular with the working classes, drawing huge crowds.

Races were mostly run on the highway between mile posts but by 1850 many pubs had their own cinder paths or running tracks. Many pedestrians ran in bare feet which must have been hard-going.

The Morning Chronicle (December 1824) had a lengthy report about a return Grand Running Match between James Metcalf 'a tailor by trade but a pedestrian by profession' and Captain Parker, a naval officer, at Sunbury Common, Surrey.

At 12.30pm Parker arrived at the Red Lion Inn, East Sheen in a carriage drawn by four horses and postilions dressed in crimson satin jackets. Aged about 35, 5ft 11ins tall, 'well made and muscular'. Metcalf settled at The Bell, Hampton.



The Bell Inn, Thames Street, Hampton (since rebuilt after a fire) where James Metcalf stayed before the race.

He was about 28 years old* and 6ft tall, 'active and elastic'. Both men were attended by their trainers. Apparently Metcalf occasionally trained by running after the King's Staghounds!

A quarter of a mile was measured out and two lanes, 'to prevent jostling or interruption' were formed with stakes and rope. At 12.50pm both parties drove to the start point, Metcalf in a chaise and pair, followed by enthusiastic supporters representing all sections of the public.

By 1.40pm the two men were stripped off to reveal their racing gear, Parker in a light blue satin loose long-sleeved top and shorts and light shoes, Metcalf wearing only satin pink shorts and light shoes. Parker was given a 25 yard start but, although he took off with 'great velocity', was eventually overtaken by the more athletic Metcalf and arrived 12 yards behind his opponent.

Metcalf's prize for beating Parker by a half second – 1000 sovereigns!

The following year Metcalf, gave a J. Halton a 20 yard head-start at a mile race along the Knavesmire Road in the city of York, Yorkshire for a 1,000 guinea prize. James won easily with a time of 4 minutes 30 seconds.

James Metcalf's record stood until 2 July 1849 when William Matthews and Charles Westhall raced a mile at Bath beating his record by a couple of seconds.

Running contests were eventually formalised and it was many years later that Roger Bannister broke the 4 minute mile in 1954.

Is James Metcalf claimed by any member? There is uncertainty about his age – he was born sometime between 1796 and 1803.

The Metcalfe Society 40th Mecca Muster & AGM 2020

The 2020 Muster will again be held at the Garden Rooms at Tenant's, Leyburn on Saturday 3rd October 2020. This will be the 40th anniversary of the Metcalfe Society and it is planned to have special celebrations to mark the event.

The committee will be working on the details and arrangements over the next few months but please pencil this date in your diaries.

Jane Austen and some Metcalfe Connections

by David Lambert M11

Jane Austen the acclaimed novelist died on 18 July 1817 after a life of profitable writing and endeavour which raised her into the very top flight of British literature. David Lambert sourced this piece from a Bank of England release on the new £10 note bearing her image.

By a coincidence, it managed to highlight not only a Metcalfe, but also a Pope connection. Mike Pope - Editor



Jane Austen 1775 – 1817

‘Novelist Jane Austen used wit and satire to provide insights into everyday life among the landed gentry at the end of the 18th century. She rejected the sentimental style of many contemporary writers in favour of irony and cynicism, which she used to highlight the social conventions that constrained women.

Jane began to write when she was just 11 years old, and by the age of 23 she had already drafted early versions of some of her most famous novels including *Pride and Prejudice* and *Sense and Sensibility*. All of Jane’s work was published anonymously so, despite the fact her work was generally well received and even became fashionable in some circles, she achieved little recognition until after her death.’ [Bank of England website –copyright acknowledged.]

Her novels certainly did not make her wealthy. She received a cheque for £38 18s 1d for her 4th novel ‘*Emma*’ from her publisher John Murray and her surname was misspelt ‘AUSTIN’ not ‘AUSTEN’.

Jane Austen died in Winchester on 18th July 1817 and is buried at Winchester Cathedral.

To coincide with the two hundredth anniversary of her death, a new Bank of England £10 note was issued with her portrait and a view of Winchester Cathedral. The note is made of polymer/ plastic and is the fifth design to appear since 1759.

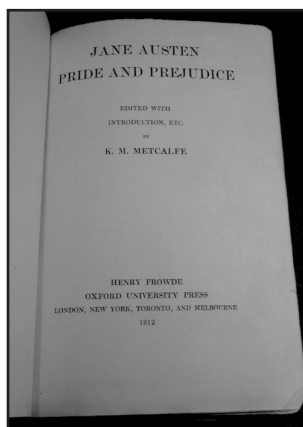
Jane Austen has two links to Metcalfes and even one to the surname of the present Editor Mike Pope.

First in 'Pride and Prejudice' **Lady Metcalfe**, a friend of Lady Catherine, is referred to:

"Aye, no doubt; but that is what a governess will prevent, and if I had known your mother, I should have advised her most strenuously to engage one. I always say that nothing is to be done in education without steady and regular instruction, and nobody but a governess can give it. It is wonderful how many families I have been the means of supplying in that way. I am always glad to get a young person well placed out. Four nieces of Mrs. Jenkinson are most delightfully situated through my means; and it was but the other day that I recommended another young person, who was merely accidentally mentioned to me, and the family are quite delighted with her.

Mrs.Collins, did I tell you of **Lady Metcalfe's** calling yesterday to thank me? She finds **Miss Pope** a treasure. " Lady Catherine," said she, "you have given me a treasure."

Secondly, **Katherine Marion Metcalfe** (1887 - 1978)



An edition of *Pride and Prejudice* was published in 1912, edited by Katherine Metcalfe who was a tutor at Oxford's Somerville College.

It was “ ‘ A new, textually accurate edition of *Pride and Prejudice*’ – and included an introduction, an overview of Austen’s life and works; essays on social history, domestic life, and language in the Regency period; as well as criticism and textual notes. ’ ”

At some point in 1912, Metcalfe met Chapman, he an editor at the Oxford University Press – by all accounts it was a whirlwind courtship – they shared a love of book collecting! – and they married in 1913. Metcalfe clearly introduced Chapman to Austen and they planned jointly to produce an edited complete works. All was cut short by the First World War in which Chapman served, and Metcalfe, now married with children (and thus required to give up her fellowship) ‘had little time or strength for editorial labours.’

Sources

We gratefully acknowledge the text from the Bank of England

per Bank of England : <http://www.thenewten.co.uk/> <http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes/Pages/default.aspx>

<https://academic.oup.com/res/article/68/285/583/2999313/Why-K-M-Metcalfe-Mrs-Chapman-is-Really-the>

Peter Metcalfe Fleet Air Arm

On the night of Friday 13 May 1965, Peter Metcalfe was embarked in the Commando Carrier Albion flying the Wessex V helicopters of 848 Naval Air Squadron when, en route to the Far East, Albion was diverted to Aden, where the British Protectorate was under threat from Soviet-armed rebel tribesmen. A detachment of four helicopters under Commander Johnny Rawlins was deployed to assist the marines operating in the hinterland, where a company of 45 Commando was under siege in a mountain pass at Ad Dimnah.

All the helicopters where grounded that night but Rawlins and his co-pilot Peter Metcalfe volunteered to fly into the mountain area in the dark, and - despite the risk of further enemy fire - they hovered with one wheel on the mountain slope and picked up two seriously wounded marines.

Johnny Rawlins, who died in 2016, received the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct and the crew were thanked by Major General F.N. Grant whose son was one of the casualties who thankfully survived. Daily Telegraph Obituaries with thanks.

Society News

OBITUARY

It is with regret that we inform you that Roy Stockdill Lecturer, Professional Genealogist and former Journalist has died. He was a member of the Federation of Family History Society Federation Executive Committee from 2003 to 2007. The Metcalfe Society extends its condolences to his family, friends and close associates. He will be sorely missed by his many friends in the Federation and its member societies.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

May I remind members that the date for renewal of membership on 1 January 2020 is fast approaching.

Please ensure that you use the enclosed renewal form or, where appropriate, check that your standing order is still operational, set for the fee of £15, and that all your **address and e-mail details are accurate** and up to date. Any address changes should be notified to the Membership Secretary Jo Heron - see details inside the front cover.

Please ensure that you add your membership number to all correspondence and especially on renewals.

MAYFLOWER VOYAGE 400 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Next year, 2020, is the 400th anniversary of the departure of the Pilgrim Fathers for America and there are celebrations planned in various locations on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean.

Do you have any Metcalfe links with the earliest settlers involving marriage with Metcalfes, family trees, and stories which have been handed down? We know of no Metcalfes on the Mayflower voyage.

If so, please let us know and contact the Editor Mike Pope.

DEADLINE for the **April 2020 Mecca News** is **23 February 2020** for articles, comments or snippets to the **Editor**

Yorkshire Group of Family History Societies Meeting held on 19th October 2019 by Jo Heron M1042

Some interesting new information is coming online:

- The MoD were offering information on Army and RAF records for WW2.
- Rootstech had some online talks available – some free and some paid for.
- Leeds Thackray Museum have put the records for some of the asylum/workhouse inmates online.
- Plymouth FHS would be celebrating the Mayflower emigrants in 2020.

There was a discussion about Social Media including Facebook, Yahoo Groups, Twitter, and Blog. Yahoo groups may be closing down, but this had not been confirmed. Twitter is run through Google. What do members feel about having a Twitter or Blog account? Let me know.

Ancestry also runs an 'Hour' on Tuesday evenings when there are lots of Q & A's from all over the world.

E-journals, One group reported that although they had a good number of members subscribing to their e-journal, only half the members had read it within a week of publication.

Several groups reported the same problems we are having on a shortage of new people taking on jobs/posts within their society. Could you shadow someone and see what they do? Would you be prepared to take on a small amount of Society work – 2-3 hours a month, or longer. Do get in touch.



Metcalfe Sighting

Joan Metcalfe M63 came across this flier for the estate agents and auctioneers Metcalfe's of Preston and Blackpool.

The poster is certainly striking and may well do the job intended, although to the editor the chaps look as though their opening gambit might be "We know where you live!"

Jackie Depelle's Non-Conformist Ancestors and the 1939 Register.

A brief summary report from Mike Pope the Editor on Jackie Depelle's quite excellent presentations at the 2019 Muster, on researching non-conformist ancestors and making the most of the 1939 Register.

Jackie's talk took the audience through the various resources which are available for the researcher looking for non-conformist family members. She also provided a most useful fact sheet on organisations, books, and web sites which the enquirer could employ: it is too large for this edition but could be supplied if members wish to contact me on e-mail.

She pointed out that an understanding of key dates on which relevant parliamentary legislation was enacted could be very helpful in focusing in on potential changes to established protocols. These included the Act of Supremacy in 1534 which established the Church of England, the Toleration Act of 1689 which granted freedom of worship for non-conformists excepting Roman Catholics, the Hardwick Marriage Act of 1836 which enabled marriage in any registered place of worship and the 1898 Marriage Act which allowed an authorised member of a congregation to act as Registrar.

Jackie emphasised the usefulness of research guides and cited the National Record Office (NRO Kew) to be invaluable, and in particular the 1851 religious survey, which is held at the NRO in H.O.129. The National Library of Scotland and Alan Godfrey maps provide useful geographical context and the British Newspaper Archive (which is available in FindMyPast) and Boston Spa are powerful research tools not to be missed.

Jackie's presentation after the lunch break was equally useful and she outlined the benefits of searching this 1939 Register which was taken on 29 September 1939. The intent of the government was to establish an accurate view of the population, who would be available to serve in the armed forces, the disposition of aliens and most importantly, would facilitate the issuing of identity cards for both security and rationing purposes.

After the end of the war, this register was instrumental in setting up the National Health Service because it provided very accurate data on disposition of potential patients and enabled the planning of hospital and surgery facilities.

The records are highly informative and Jackie emphasised that as they are still continually being updated, it is very worthwhile to revisit them regularly to establish whether more relevant data is available.

ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

Thanks to all who have sent in details. This is probably the time of year, with nights darkening early and winter beckoning, when more of you turn to your family history studies. If you have not yet sent in information for your Birth Brief then please do so. The communication involved can lead to new insights.

Margaret Hodgson M515

archivist@metcalfe.org.uk

Postal address on front inside page of this magazine

BIRTH BRIEFS FROM EXISTING MEMBERS (INCLUDING UPDATES – shown in bold)

M1068 Mr Nick Metcalfe

107 Woodford Road, Bramhall, Stockport, Cheshire SK7 1QB
nick.metcalfe@btinternet.com

S.o. John D & Olwen (Thomas) Mte m 1949 Cleveland District. John D b 31 Jul 1924 Norton, Dur s.o. Albert Isaac & Hannah (Stones) Mte m 1920 Auckland District, Dur. Albert Isaac b 22 Mar 1890 Spenny-moor, Dur s.o. John & Elizabeth (Dunbar) Mte. John b c1862 Sunnyside, Dur s.o. Joseph & Mary Ann Mte. Joseph bpt 3 May 1829 Barton s.o. Joseph & Jane (Rowland) Mte m 21 Aug 1824 Barton. Joseph bpt 21 Feb 1802 Middleton Tyas s.o. Thomas & Anne Mte. Thomas bpt 12 Jun 1743 Hipswell s.o. William & Isabella Mte.

Conn: M930

M2091 Mrs Sandra Billard

6b Queen Elizabeth Court, Raeburn Place, Sheffield S14 1SG
billard727@gmail.com

Descendant of Matthew & Margaret (Mte) Hutchinson m 24 Apr 1762 Aysgarth. Margaret b 2 Jun 1735 Carperby d.o. Bryan & Margaret (Lupton) Mte m 30 Oct 1725 Aysgarth. Bryan bpt 21 Aug 1698 Aysgarth s.o. John & Grace Mte. John s.o. Bryan Mte. Bryan s.o. John & Christian (formerly Mte nee Simpson) Mte. John s.o. James & Ann Mte of Nappa Scar.

Conn: M163 M322 M965 M979 M1150 M1223 M1455 M1563 M1702 M1734 M1902 M1922 M1966

M2122 Mrs Becky Johnson

1 Merle Way, Lower Cambourne, Cambridge CB23 6FE

becky.johnson@kingsgateuk.com

D.o. Brian & Sheila (Sibley) Harrop m Jun 1958 Lewisham, London. Brian b 8 May 1937 Stapleford, Notts s.o. William & Amy Elizabeth (Blackburn) Harrop m 3 Aug 1928 Beeston, Notts. Amy Elizabeth b 10 Jan 1899 Widmerpool, Notts d.o. Thomas Edward & Eliza (Brown) Blackburn m 24 Sep 1890 Chelsworth, Sfk. Thomas Edward b 1865 Ripon, Yks s.o. William Francis Mortimer & Sarah Jane (Mt) Blackburn m 18 May 1864 Ripon Cathedral. Sarah Jane bpt 10 Dec 1843 Aldfield, Yks d.o. Thomas & 2nd wf Dorothy (Snowden) Mte m 15 Nov 1830 Ripon Cathedral. Thomas bpt 23 Jul 1797 Aldfield s.o. Andrew & 2nd wf Dorothy (Lofthouse) Mte m 29 Mar 1786 Ripon Cathedral. Andrew bpt 31 Dec 1743 Ripon Cathedral s.o. Robert & Mary (Rymer) Mte m 16 Apr 1735 Topcliffe. Robert bpt 13 Feb 1704 Cundall s.o. James & Ann Mte. James bpt 17 Apr 1638 Cundall s.o. Francis & 2nd wf Cicely (Gatenby) Mte m 25 Jul 1637 Burneston.

Conn: M443 M519 M573 M977 M1021 M1154**NEW MEMBERS****M2124 Mr Adrian Steel**

7729 Timon Drive, McLean, Virginia 22102-2743, USA

ASteel@mayerbrown.com

Grt grd s.o. George & Mary Mildred (Lee) Steel m 11 May 1869 Jefferson County, Missouri, USA. George b 6 Feb 1845 Wykeham, Yks s.o. George & Mary (Mt) Steel m 15 Oct 1831 Wykeham. Mary bpt 27 Oct 1811 Leconfield, Yks d.o. Thomas & Mary (Sandwich) Mte m 3 Nov 1802 Lockington, Yks. Thomas bpt 16 May 1776 Coxwold, Yks s.o. Thomas & 2nd wf Sarah (Hornsey) Mte m 6 Jun 1775 Bagby, Yks. Thomas bpt 14 Mar 1724 Sandhutton, Yks s.o. Thomas & Jane Mte.

Conn: M172 M656 M698 M707 M1406 M1914**M2125 Mrs Christine Metcalfe**

22 Greenfield Road, Scarborough, N Yorkshire YO11 2LP

chris-

tinemetcalfe1@hotmail.co.uk

Husband (M1162) s.o. Vincent (M1253) & Maureen (Devoy) Mte m 29 May 1948 Selby. Vincent b 29 Dec 1921 Sutton on the Forest s.o. Percy William & Beatrice (Alcock) Mte m 1909 Upper Poppleton. Percy William b 1881 Upper Poppleton s.o. William & Beatrice (Dalton) Mte m 29 Nov 1879 Upper Poppleton. William bpt 24 Oct 1855 Whixley s.o. John & Emily (Harbottle) Mte m 19 Feb 1853 Little Ouseburn. John bpt 14 Jun 1829 Kirk Hammerton s.o. Richard & Susannah (Parker) Mte m 22 Oct 1827 Bilton in Ainsty. Richard b c1796 Tockwith.

Conn: M37 M1162 M1253

M2126 Mr Paul Stride

44 Selangor Avenue, Emsworth, Hampshire PO10 7LT

paul.stride2@btinternet.com

S.o. Paul & Rita (Barnes) Stride m 6 Feb 1960 Woking, Surrey. Rita d.o. William Francis & Edna (Woods) Barnes m 1939 Surrey. William Francis b 9 Sep 1915 Edinburgh s.o. James & Frances Elizabeth (Mte) Barnes m 2 Dec 1907 Holy Trinity, South Shields. Frances Elizabeth b 5 Sep 1875 Bainbridge, Wensleydale d.o. Richard & Dorothy (Madgin) Mte m 2Q 1875 Hartlepool district. Richard b 23 Dec 1848 Bainbridge s.o. Matthew & Elizabeth (Chapman) Mte m 12 Sep 1840 Aysgarth. Matthew bpt 7 Jul 1811 Askrigg s.o. John & Margaret (Blades) Mte m 31 Jan 1803 Askrigg. John bpt 21 Feb 1781 Askrigg s.o. James Mte of Askrigg.

Conn: M54 M234 M242 M296 M297 M400 M403 M410 M597 M639 M720 M886 M918 M1133 M1419 M1528 M1713 M1869 M1897

M2127 Miss Petrina Metcalf

47 Cochrane Street, Broke, New South Wales 2330, Australia

plmetcalf7@gmail.com

Grd d.o. Reginald James & Alice (Ridley) Mt m 7 Jul 1945 Ma Ma Creek, Queensland, Australia. Reginald James b 10 Aug 1914 Gatton, Queensland s.o. John Stephen & Martha Eliza (Speck) Mt m 13 Mar 1912. John Stephen b 7 Dec 1883 Gatton s.o. James Bedeiah (or Beecher) & Eleanor Priscilla (Ellis) Mt m 15 Jan 1881 Ipswich, Queensland. James Bedeiah b 14 May 1849 Elwick, Dur s.o. John Stephen & Elizabeth Hannah (Kelly) Mte m 25 Nov 1834 Darlington, Dur. John Stephen bpt 26 Dec 1811 York, Yks s.o. William & Christiana (Allison) Mte m 24 Dec 1810 Bagby, Yks. William b c1784.

Conn: M973 M2018

M2128 Dr Elizabeth Green

17 Hayhills Road, Silsden, Keighley, W Yorkshire BD20 9NE

ecg1612@icloud.com

D.o. Keith Harry & Lois Elizabeth (Mte) Green m 21 Aug 1965 Barnoldswick, Yks. Lois Elizabeth d.o. John Joseph (Jack) & Hilda (Marsh) Mte m Mar 1942 Blackburn, Lan. John Joseph b 21 May 1908 Keighley, Yks s.o. Thomas Mte & Anne Stephenson. Thomas b 1877 Keighley s.o. John & Ann (Hardacre) Mte m 28 Aug 1876 Long Preston. John bpt 5 Sep 1852 Ingleton Fells s.o. William & Isabella (a) (Mte) Mte m 13 Jun 1853 Ingleton Fells. William bpt 5 Nov 1824 Kendal, Wes s.o. Michael & Agnes (Chapman) Mte m 3 Oct 1816 Askrigg. Michael bpt 28 Feb 1796 Kirkby Stephen, Wes s.o. Edward & Sarah (Shaw) Mte m 5 May 1791 Kirkby Stephen. Edward bpt 30 Jun 1769 Muker s.o. Michael & Eleanor (Coates) Mte m 29 May 1755 Muker. Michael b c1730 s.o. Michael Mte of Thwaite.

Conn: M73 M77 M331 M338 M577 M668 M806 M939 M1276 M1278 M1984 M2035 M2086

(a) Isabella b 18 Aug 1827 Winterscales d.o. John & Isabella (Moss) Mte m 23 Apr 1817 Ingleton Fells. John bpt 28 Jan 1792 Ingleton Fells s.o. Richard & Agnes (Shepherd) Mte m 17 Nov 1788 Ingleton Fells. Richard bpt 15 Jun 1766 Ingleton Fells s.o. John & Eleanor (Whaley) Mte m 8 Jul 1761 Hawes. John b 4 Oct 1734 Southerscales s.o. George & 1st wf Margaret (Thompson) Mte m 13 Aug 1726 Ingleton Fells. George bpt 27 Mar 1700 Ingleton s.o. Christopher & Catherine (Leake) Mte m 22 Jan 1697-98 Ingleton.

Conn: M97 M331 M637 M668 M777 M850 M860 M870 M871 M905 M964 M1274 M1276 M1550 M2035

Also, on her father's side, Elizabeth is 3× gt grd d.o. William & Mary (Mte) Greenwood m 21 Nov 1830 Dent, Yks. Mary b c1808 Aysgarth

M2129 Mrs Susan Canning

4404 Rockingham Road, Tallahassee, Florida 32303, USA
susan.canning49@gmail.com

M2130 Mrs Sarah George

67 Hob Moor Drive, Holgate, York YO24 4JU
sarah67hmd@hotmail.co.uk

M2131 Mr John Walker

25 Downs Park West, Bristol BS6 7QH
jr58dunelm@gmail.com

S.o. John Metcalfe & Doris (Watson) Walker m Darlington, Dur. John Metcalfe b 4Q 1913 Darlington s.o. Harry & Emily (Mte) Walker m 4Q 1912 Reeth. Emily b 3Q 1880 Reeth d.o. John & Dinah (Frankland) Mte m 26 Nov 1869 Grinton. John b 1 Oct 1834 Healaugh s.o. James & Margaret (Routledge) Mte m 4 Dec 1827 Grinton. James bpt 9 Oct 1805 Grinton s.o. William & Margaret (Raw) Mte m 5 Jul 1804 Grinton. William b c1781 Whitaside.

Conn: M128 M335 M984 M1119

M2132 Ms Norah Wetherill

Mayfield House, Oulston, York YO61 3RA
no email supplied

M2133 Mrs Beverly Mitchell

10337 Emerald Woods Avenue, Orlando, Florida 32836, USA
bev_01@me.com

WILLS PROJECT REPORT

Many thanks are due to the transcribers, who continue to assure the success of this project. Nearly every will and administration does produce extra information on the relevant family which can then be added into the Society Main Index.

Most of the remaining work which the project hopes to accomplish will be on Yorkshire wills and administrations.

Margaret Hodgson (Project Coordinator)

Wills newly transcribed and now available to view in the Members Only section of the website

The date here is the date of probate. Wills are often earlier than the year of probate so it is best to use the search + or – 2/5/10/20 years if not found immediately by name or place.

- 1736 George Metcalfe of Snape, Yorkshire
- 1739 John Metcalfe, Rector of Hanworth & Vicar of Sunbury, Middlesex
- 1751 Thomas Metcalfe of St Omer, Flanders, formerly of Middlesex
- 1752 William Christopher Metcalfe of St Andrew's, Holborn, Middlesex
- 1761 Christopher Metcalf of St John's, Wapping but late of Scarborough, Yorkshire
- 1764 Peter Metcalfe of Menwith Hill, Hampsthwaite, Yorkshire
- 1764 Thomas Metcalfe of London (land in Aysgarth, Yorkshire)
- 1766 William Metcalfe of St Paul's Covent Garden, Middlesex
- 1779 George Metcalfe of Oxnop, Grinton, Yorkshire
- 1793 Thomas Peter Metcalfe of Bath, Somerset
- 1796 Elizabeth Metcalf of East Smithfield, Middlesex
- 1803 Thomas Metcalfe of St Anne's, Westminster
- 1808 Joseph Metcalfe of Marylebone, Middlesex
- 1808 Thomas Metcalf of Marylebone, Middlesex
- 1814 Ann Metcalfe of parish of Christ Church, Surrey
- 1825 John Metcalf of Menwith cum Darley, Yorkshire
- 1830 John Metcalfe of Colne, Lancashire (buried Hawes in 1815)
- 1846 George Metcalfe of Quarry House, Hawes, Yorkshire (administration)
- 1850 John Metcalfe of Grooms Hill, Greenwich, Kent (previously of Aldgate)
- 1856 Thomas Metcalfe of Lincolns Inn, Middlesex

Four Metcalfe Men by Dave C. Metcalfe M983

The photograph on the back page of this December 2019 edition is part of our Web Administrator Dave C. Metcalfe's pictorial collection and I asked him if he would write a short piece on the background to the photograph, and on his immediate family, as I thought it an excellent story of a modern Metcalfe branch of our clan.

I have taken Dave's contribution, added minimally to it, and I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I have. **Mike Pope: Editor**

Dave C's Story

My grandad Charles William Metcalfe was born in 1888 in Fishtoft, a small village near Boston Lincolnshire, situated on the left bank of the River Witham and between Boston and The Wash. Charles W. Metcalfe was married on 8 April 1912 to Alice Atkinson who had been born in 1888 in Worsborough, Yorkshire, which is just south of Barnsley.

CW - or Chuck Bill as he was also known - left home in Lincolnshire firstly to go into service and then he headed for the South Yorkshire Coalfields (Barnsley Main) for better paid work. He was a miner during his twenties, and so 'escaped' having to fight in WW1. He saved well and bought a fish & chip shop in Wombwell, near Barnsley and they ran that business for several years. He also bought a few other terraced properties which he used to rent out. A hard working man, he loved his garden - especially roses, and tomatoes in the greenhouse.

Alice was a super cook and mother. She used to crochet despite having severely arthritic fingers.

My father Leonard Metcalfe was born on the 7th of October 1924 in Birdwell, near Barnsley and was married on 4 September 1948 to my mother Muriel Wilson who was born on 1st of April 1925 in Barnsley.

Leonard (mostly known as Len) went to Barnsley Grammar School, then joined the navy. He spent the latter part of WW2 as a shore based communications technician - specialising in recording and translating Morse code messages that were picked up from German shipping. He was drafted to the south coast ready for D-day landings, but in the event was required to stay on the English side of the Channel.

Len had many jobs after leaving the navy, and for many years ran his own businesses including grocery stores, a village pub and a wet fish business. He loved his garden and his greenhouse tomatoes, just like his father before him. Muriel was a very good cook, choir singer, and regular with the Towns Women's Guild.

Muriel and Len retired to Blackpool, and spent many happy years travelling Europe and further afield during their retirement years. Len was a very good singer too and became Chairman of the Blackpool Male Voice Choir. He died on the 11th of January 2008 and Muriel on 8th of October 2013.

My brother Andrew Metcalfe was born 29 October 1950. He married once but was divorced, with one child. Andrew was a keen sportsman, playing club rugby for many years, and ran many marathons and half marathons. He also liked to walk in the hills and fells of the Lake District.

Sadly Andrew died very young by today's standards - he was 59 years old, and had just completed a training run when he collapsed from a heart attack and died on 19 June 2010.

Then there is me - David Charles Metcalfe, born the 13th of July 1953 and married to Rosalind in 2013 - although we both have children from previous marriages.

At the time of the photograph, I was very keen on mountain walking and climbing, and led my older brother up several rock climbs in the Langdale Valley, and Shepherds Crag in Borrowdale. I have been an avid sportsman, having played club rugby, football and cricket, and have also completed several marathons, half marathons and numerous other shorter distance races.

I very much enjoy cooking, and volunteer as one of our chefs at our local church, which might entail catering for large groups of over thirty people.

I am manifestly very interested in family history and have been researching and pursuing my forebears for the last 20 years, and thoroughly enjoy being part of the Metcalfe Society.

Ros - my wife - is alas a very good cook, continues to be a part time teacher, and church volunteer, and we both enjoy travel at home and overseas when we can.

And so to the photograph on the back cover. The shot was taken by my mother Muriel Metcalfe in the summer of 1970 in Fitz Park, Keswick which is said to have two of the best flat green bowling rinks in the country. That despite being flooded, as Keswick regularly is, in 2005, 2007 and 2015.

Ros and I can thoroughly recommend this venue for a quiet stroll, or better still, a pleasant game of English bowls. The bowling green is in the Municipal Park at Keswick in the English Lake District, and the superb affor-ested hill in the background is called Latrigg.

The picture has myself (David Charles Metcalfe) on the left, my brother (Nigel Andrew Metcalfe) centre, my father (Leonard Metcalfe) on the right, all standing, and my grandfather (Charles William Metcalfe) in the foreground rolling the bowl.

I do love this photo because it shows the three generations of our family playing a typically English game in beautiful surroundings and was not posed at all. It was taken as it happened.

Moreover, it was shot by my mum who, with the best will in the world, did not take many photos that were well composed or even in focus.

It may well have been my grandfather's last such holiday, and I have great memories of those times and of our super parents and grandparents.

My mother loved family and holiday snaps, and could spend many an hour looking at them "These are your memories" she would say. However, when it came to taking a photo my mum took an age to get ready to press the button, often moving backwards and forwards, until she got what she thought was the best view. This always took an age and was so frustrating for the likes of us who had to maintain our places and smiles until she did finally press the button.

As children we did get our revenge though - we would pull a face at the last minute and often spoil the record of the family event! Terrible really!

All I can say now, is I forgive my Mum for all that waiting time, because to me this is the best family photo ever! Thank you Mum!

Sadly I am now the only one of that group and the photographer who is still alive, but at least I have the photos and some great memories."

David Charles Metcalfe M983



Four Metcalfe Men of David Charles Metcalfe's Family in Keswick in 1970